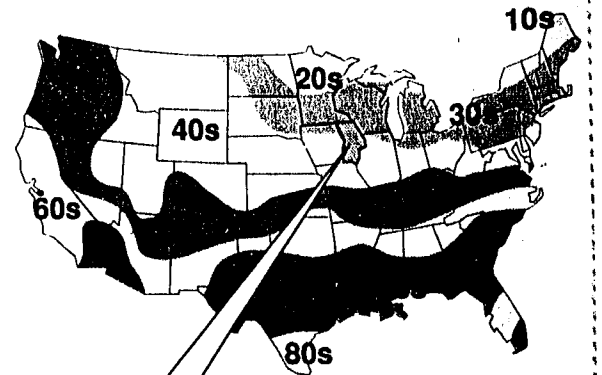


WEDNESDAY March 18, 1992

IOWA TODAY, FINAL EDITION
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
VOL. 110 NO. 69 50 CENTS

The Gazette

A regional newspaper serving Eastern Iowa



FORECAST: Cloudy with a mixture of precipitation. Highs 38-42; lows 24-28. Today's daylight: 12 hrs., 2 min. See 12C.

Clinton grabs 2 wins

Bush crushes faltering Buchanan

ILLINOIS

Here are the latest, unofficial returns in the Illinois primary Tuesday (D-55%; R-71% precincts).

DEMOCRATS

Clinton	421,075/51%
Tsongas	212,882/26%
Brown	122,138/15%

REPUBLICANS

Bush	480,226/76%
Buchanan	137,489/23%

Source: Associated Press

MICHIGAN

Here are the latest, unofficial returns in the Michigan presidential primary Tuesday (75% precincts).

DEMOCRATS

Clinton	198,492/48%
Brown	121,397/28%
Tsongas	79,432/18%

REPUBLICANS

Bush	241,738/67%
Buchanan	92,104/25%

Source: Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Gov. Bill Clinton won twin victories in the Illinois and Michigan primaries Tuesday night, cementing his dominance of the Democratic presidential race. President Bush piled dual landslides atop the faltering challenge of Patrick Buchanan.

Clinton's triumphs were a major stride toward the Democratic nomination to challenge Bush for the White House on Nov. 3. "It's almost a done deal," said Democratic chairman John Marino of New

York.

Bush said his renomination was "virtually assured" following runaways in Michigan and in Illinois. The protest vote clearly was dwindling, and Buchanan seemed to be fading with it. He had centered his challenge in Michigan but had to settle for 26 percent of the vote. In Illinois, partial returns gave him only 21 percent.

Aides said Buchanan would scale back his campaign and avoid efforts that could harm Bush's chances for reelection

— but the candidate himself was conceding nothing. "We're going to keep on rolling," he told supporters. "They say Mr. Bush is a prodigal son and he's on his way home. I say it's too soon ..."

The candidate's sister and campaign manager, Angela Bay Buchanan, told reporters her brother eventually "is going to endorse George Bush and he is going to support him and want him to do well."

■ Turn to page 8A: Primaries



NEIGHBORS

Her calls for help were answered

Page 4

BRIEFLY



FACE VALUE: Charlie Fisher of Cedar Rapids put a little paint on his face to spread good cheer at the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Cedar Rapids. More photos, 12C.

Superintendent hired

College Community choice

The superintendent of the Cherokee school system in western Iowa was hired last night to head the College Community School District. Mick Starcevic, 44, will take over July 1, when Bob Bostwick retires. Details on page 1B.

Civil rights

New C.R. director picked

A Waterloo native who finished second a year ago in the selection of a Cedar Rapids civil rights director came in first this time. Jonathan Clarkson, 36, of Yuba City, Calif., on Tuesday was chosen to replace William Vaughn, who was dismissed in September. Details on page 1B.

Exec checks

Scandal bounces to Cabinet

Three Cabinet members acknowledged Tuesday that they had written bad checks while in Congress, the first Bush administration involvement in the rubber-check scandal. Details on page 3A.

Regis rolls

On to 2A semifinals

Cedar Rapids Regis beat Davenport Assumption, 77-62, last night in the Class 2A first round of the boys' state basketball tournament in Des Moines. In the semifinals Thursday, Regis will have a chance to avenge last year's title-game loss to Western Christian. Details on page 1C.

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TODAY'S CHUCKLE

Beaver community: village of the dammed.

TOMORROW

In the stars

Searching for proof

Other planets, other solar systems, perhaps other life. It seems likely, say astronomers who are researching the possibility of planets orbiting stars other than our own. **Health and Science in Thursday's Gazette.**

Afternoon of fishing turns tragic near dam in Coralville

By Heather Sloman Woodin

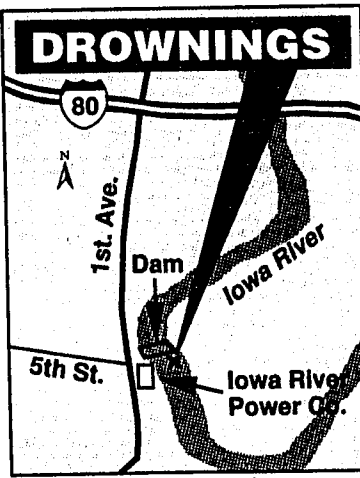
Gazette Johnson County Bureau

CORALVILLE — An afternoon of fishing among buddies Tuesday turned into an evening of river-dragging by authorities.

Chris Ellis, 23, of North Liberty, jumped to safety when the fishing boat got too close to the dam behind the Iowa River Power Company restaurant about 4 p.m. His friends still were missing last night. They were identified as Jeff Brogan, 23, of rural Hills, and Justin Ramseyer, 18, of Iowa City.

The river search for the two men will resume at 7 this morning.

Ellis said the three had entered the river at City Park in Iowa City. They had been on the river about two hours and were fishing below the dam,



Gazette map

close to the east shore.

Suddenly, things were out of control and the undertow was pulling the boat closer to the dam. "By the time we started

getting sucked in it was 10 seconds until the boat flipped," he said.

Ellis jumped out of the boat and landed on the shore. One of his friends jumped in the water and was pulled under, the other tried to start the motor and was tossed into the water.

Ellis could only watch. "I saw it go under. There was no rope or nothing. All I could do was flag someone in the window" of the restaurant, which overlooks the dam.

His friends were good swimmers, but "in there it don't matter, I guess," he said, shivering and crying in the restaurant parking lot.

A waitress, who wouldn't give her name, said she

■ Turn to page 8A: Drowning



Gazette photo by Todd McInturf

Chris Ellis, who survived the boating accident that apparently killed two of his friends, is consoled last night by his mother, Joanne Staton. Both are from North Liberty. The accident happened at the dam near the Iowa River Power Company restaurant in Coralville.

'February 1st month of recovery'

WASHINGTON (AP) — New-home construction surged unexpectedly in February, and industrial production rebounded from a four-month stall, the government said Tuesday in reports hailed as unambiguous evidence of a recovery.

"I think January was the last month of the recession, and February was the first month of the recovery," said economist Bruce Steinberg of Merrill Lynch.

Still, he and other economists cautioned against expecting growth as strong as other post-World War II recoveries. The federal government and consumers are already heavily in debt, restricting their ability to borrow and spend more.

Details of economic reports released Tuesday:

• **HOUSING STARTS:** Construction of new homes and apartments soared 9.6 percent to 1.3 million units in February, the highest level since March 1990, the Commerce Department said. Increases were registered in every region.

• **INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION:** The Federal Reserve reported that total output at the nation's factories, mines and utilities advanced 0.6 percent in February. It was the first increase since September and the strongest since July.

• **CONSUMER PRICES:** The Labor Department said prices rose a moderate 0.3 percent in February, pulled up by higher

food and clothing costs. Inflation for the first two months of the year was running at a 2.2 percent annual rate.

• **CURRENT ACCOUNT TRADE:** The broadest measure of the U.S. trade deficit, including investment flows in addition to trade in goods and services, shrank to \$8.6 billion in 1991. It was the best performance since 1982.

• **CAPACITY USE:** The operating rate at factories, mines and utilities jumped to 78.2 percent of capacity in February, up from 77.9 percent the month before.

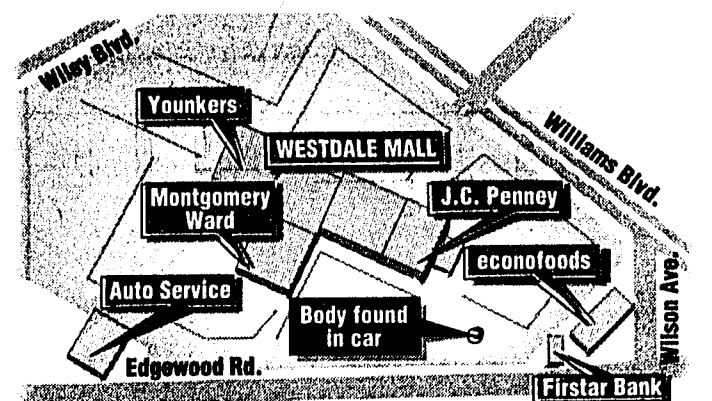
• **REAL EARNINGS:** Americans' inflation-adjusted earnings rose 1.2 percent in February.

MURDERED MISSING



Victim: Michelle Martinko, 18
Hometown: Cedar Rapids
Classification of case: Murder
Date of murder: December 19, 1979
Place of murder: Body found in her car at Westdale Mall

Do you have information?
Contact Cedar Rapids Police
Detective Bureau
(319) 398-5046



Gazette map by Chad Willenborg

Parents lose hope on Martinko case

By Rick Smith
Gazette staff writer

Janet Martinko knows. So does her husband, Albert. They know that investigators likely will never arrest the person who committed Cedar Rapids' most famous unsolved murder — the stabbing of their 18-year-old daughter, Michelle, a few days before Christmas 1979.

And the Martinkos say they have come to know, too, as one sad year has blended into another since then, who most likely killed their daughter. She knew him and they knew him.

Knowing, though, brings no solace.

In fact, Mrs. Martinko is almost eager to see her daughter's name in the newspaper again.

Now 74, she suddenly fears that the case is slipping away, forever to be unsolved, and she can't believe it.

Over the years, in what certainly has been Eastern Iowa's most-probed homicide, investigators have always told Mrs. Martinko they can't share much information with her about the murder.

But she's never forgotten what they told her at the very first.

"They told me it was a jealousy murder," says Mrs. Martinko. "It was a jealousy murder because of the stab wounds."

Those wounds were to the face and chest.

The ones to the face, says Mrs. Martinko, were numerous. Some were severe. So much so, she confides, that the public visitation at the funeral home was delayed after she dislodged some cosmetic repair while kissing Michelle in her coffin.

"It's OK," she says, not objecting to the conversation. "I go through this every day. There were a lot of stab wounds."

That Michelle's killer did not rape her, and that he left about \$160 of hers on the floor of the Martinko car after murdering her inside it, makes Mrs. Martinko believe the murderer was no stereotypical, serial-killer stranger who stalked her, then pounced.

"He didn't want her money. He didn't want her sexually. What did he want? Just her life. It must have been jealousy. It was a jealousy attack," she says.

Declines invitation

Dec. 19, 1979, was a Wednesday, and the next day was a school day.

Michelle, a Kennedy High School senior, had attended a dress-up banquet with the high school choir that evening at

■ Turn to page 8A: Unsolved

Unsolved: Few Martinko clues

■ From page 1A

the Sheraton Hotel and then had gone to the recently opened Westdale Mall to try on a new coat her mother wanted to buy her for Christmas.

"She was really dolled up, she looked wonderful," remembers Martin Miller, now a chiropractor in Jefferson, Iowa.

Miller, along with Todd Bergen, Tracy Price and others, were Kennedy choir members who had been to the choir banquet that evening and who later ran into Michelle at the mall.

Miller remembers the mall being "pretty barren" that night as his group hung around about 9 o'clock waiting for a movie to start at a nearby theater. They asked Michelle if she wanted to join them, but she declined.

Miller recalls that she seemed to be in a hurry and was frustrated trying to find the store where her mother had picked out the coat for her to try on. Michelle got some change from them before going on her way, recalls Bergen, of Cedar Rapids.

Price, also of Cedar Rapids, remembers Martinko in those days as composed, thoughtful, college-bound and "very into fashion . . . not ahead of the times, but very much of the times."

She was mature beyond her age, say Bergen and Miller. "She didn't give guys in school much of a chance," adds Miller. "She always dated older guys."

As it turned out, Bergen, Miller and Price were likely the first Kennedy students to learn of Michelle's murder. Bergen's father, Floyd, was public safety commissioner at the time and was notified of the murder immediately. The three students went to the Police Station to tell detectives what little they had seen of Michelle the evening before. They were at the station when Michelle's "devastated" parents walked in. They, too, were among the hundreds of students at the funeral, "among the hundreds of kids bawling their heads off."

Police find body in car

Michelle was last seen in the mall about 9 p.m.

Mrs. Martinko says she expected her daughter home by 9:30 that night, and had become alarmed by midnight when there was no sign of her. She called police. By then, Mr. Martinko had gone out in the car hunting for his daughter, but didn't really know where to look. Mrs. Martinko called police again.

At 4 a.m., police found the family car Michelle had been driving: a 1972, four-door Buick Electra, with gold vinyl roof and light green body. It was parked in the lower lot at Westdale Mall, near one of the Edgewood Road entrances. The windshield was frosted over, the key was in the ignition and one rear door was unlocked.

Michelle was in the front passenger seat, dead from multiple stab wounds.

Cedar Rapids Police Department detective Gary Stark says the main stab wounds were to the chest, but several were to the neck and face.

The murder weapon, never found, was a double-edged knife similar in style to a dagger or a hunting knife with a curved tip. Stark doesn't believe the killer intentionally tried to disfigure Martinko's face.

"If you are fighting for your life and the knife is flying around in the car, you might receive a lot of incidental cuts," says Stark. And she did try to fight her killer off, he adds.

Stark says the killer could have been hiding in the Martinko car when she left the mall that night, or could have confronted her outside the car. He knows the car was moved from its first parking spot in the top of the lot to where it was found in the lower lot, but he won't say how he knows that.

Stark notes that Westdale Mall, which had been open 2½ months, was very much on the edge of town back then, with much open area around it. It would have been a short drive to an isolated road or area to commit murder, he says.

Composite of suspect

No Cedar Rapids crime has been investigated more or reported on more than the Martinko one.

"It is the most exhaustive investigation I've ever seen," says Linn County Attorney Denver Dillard.

Many people were subjected to lie detector tests, and investigators resorted to psychics, a sketch maker and a hypnotist.

Through hypnosis, two women helped draw a composite of a man in his late teens or early 20s who they believe they saw in the Westdale Mall parking lot about the time of the murder.

Several times over the years, detectives have questioned other killers and rapists arrested inside and outside Iowa. Killings

of young women around shopping malls, notes Stark, have happened with some frequency over the years. Just a year ago, he investigated such a murder in New Jersey, still unsolved, that was similar to Michelle's.

In 1986 and 1987, Stark and several agents of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation reinvestigated the Martinko case from the beginning.

The high profile of the case made it a perfect one on which to test an idea — that a fresh team of detectives looking anew at certain, aging homicide cases might be able to unravel their mysteries.

That wasn't to be in the Martinko case. And when the year-long reinvestigation ended, it raised the prospect that the murder likely would never be solved.

The second go-around did offer a moment of anticipation. At one point, then-Cedar Rapids Police Chief Gary Hinzman announced that sophisticated laboratory tests were analyzing fur samples found on the clothing of one of the case's remaining principal suspects, Dennis McKee.

The hope was that the fur fibers taken from clothing belonging to McKee at the time somehow could be shown to be the same as that of the rabbit coat Michelle was wearing the night she was murdered. In the end, the test concluded that the fur found on the suspect's clothing was processed rabbit, but couldn't conclude it had come from Michelle's coat, says detective Stark.

McKee (who is serving a life sentence at the Iowa Men's Penitentiary at Fort Madison for first-degree sexual abuse for a different crime) scoffs at the suggestion he had anything to do with Michelle's murder. That's a conclusion that Martinko's parents seem to agree with and that evidence has never been sufficient to rebut in court.

"I've stated from the very beginning that I did not kill Martinko," McKee wrote March 12 in response to a recent letter from The Gazette. "My involvement exists only in the fantastic imagination of a small clique of . . . corrupt cops."

McKee says if there was any rabbit hair on his clothing the detectives planted it.

Now 41, McKee became a suspect two weeks after Michelle's murder when his mug shot was picked from a photo lineup by a woman who had been violently raped at knife-point in Cedar Rapids a month before Michelle's murder. Police came to believe that McKee was actively targeting the homes of recently divorced women he knew only as names from the divorce lists in the newspaper. Police found such a list, with the rape victim's name among them, when they searched McKee's residence.

For several years, Cedar Rapids detectives familiar with the Martinko investigation have always seemed to suggest that the case comes down to two prime suspects: someone who knew Michelle, and McKee.

Stark now offers no public opinion.

"It was possible it was someone who knew her" is as candid as he gets.

McKee doesn't automatically get eliminated as a suspect simply because Michelle was not raped, Stark adds. It's always possible someone came by and prevented him from doing what he wanted, he says.

Assistant Police Chief Bruce Kern says his sense is that many of the department's detectives, including Stark, feel they "know" who killed Martinko. But, he says, that doesn't mean much.

County Attorney Dillard is less sure: A case can be made for as many as 10 suspects, says Dillard. Of any suspect list with just two names on it, Dillard says the two are only the "most stereotypical" suspects.

By all accounts Michelle was beautiful. But her mother says Michelle had never let her beauty go to her head, even if a constant stream of calls and stares from young men usually made her conscious of it.

It was a beauty, in the end, believes her mother, that a young man who knew her decided nobody should have if he couldn't.

COMING UP

■ **Thursday:** The disappearances of three married women — the cases of Jane Wakefield, Lynn Schuller and Denise Fraley.

■ **Friday:** The disappearances of two boys — the cases of Guy Heckle and Johnny Gosch.

■ **Saturday:** Murders in the underworld of drugs — the cases of John Wall and Ron Novak.

■ **Sunday:** Families of the murdered and missing tell how they cope with unsolved cases.



Gazette photo by Todd McInturf

Emergency personnel, searching for two men believed drowned in a boating accident, drag the Iowa River last night behind the Iowa River Power Company restaurant in Coralville.

Drownings: 'A mother's worst nightmare'

■ From page 1A

watched as the two disappeared into the water. "I felt really awful because there was nothing we could do. Somebody else in the restaurant was yelling 'Oh my God,'" she said.

The restaurant remained closed during the rescue attempt.

Ellis' mother, Joanne Staton of North Liberty, knew that Ellis was fishing. She has police scanners in her car and in her house that are on constantly. She heard a report that a boat capsized, then the location, and then instructions for someone to call Ellis' father. She rushed to the river, not sure whether her son had survived.

"This is a mother's worst nightmare," she said. Her son and Brogan had been best friends since about first grade, she said. "When you saw one you saw them both. Fishing — that's all they did. Day and night."

The families were neighbors, separated only by the Mehaffey Bridge. Ellis graduated from West High School; Brogan from Solon High School. Ramseyer had attended the Iowa City Community Education Center.

Ellis is an ironworker. Brogan was unemployed.

Brogan had been engaged for about a month to Rhonda Hamer, 19, of Hills. They had not yet set their wedding date.

She said she was upset with Brogan when he said he was going fishing. "He was supposed to spend some time with me."

It was Brogan's boat the three were using, and he had fished in that area lots of times, she said. "I told him not to get too close. He said he wouldn't."

As she waited, she clung to a chain-link fence at the edge of the parking lot and watched the rescue operation.

Ellis estimated the boat was within 30 feet of the dam when the boat capsized. Rescuers couldn't get closer than about 150 feet because of the undertow, Johnson County Sheriff Robert Carpenter said. There have been two or three drownings at that

location in the past 10 or 15 years, and numerous rescues, he said.

Rescuers were working against the clock to find the victims alive. "We're running out of time, to be quite honest with you," Carpenter said at about 5:15 p.m.

As darkness fell, lights were set up and the search continued under a full moon. The search was called off about 8:30 p.m.

Carpenter said an attempt will be made to cut the flow of the river from the Coralville Reservoir so water will be less choppy near the dam. That would allow rescue boats to get closer to the dam today.

Primaries: 'Test of electability is elections'

■ From page 1A

Clinton won easily in both industrial states, defeating Paul Tsongas and Jerry Brown and overriding critics who said his support was centered only in the South.

"The test of electability is elections," said the Arkansas governor, adding that he'd passed it.

Illinois Sen. Alan Dixon was struggling to survive a close contest with Carol Moseley Braun, the Cook County recorder of deeds. If Braun were to win the three-way primary, she would be bidding in November to become the first black woman and the first black Democrat ever elected to the Senate.

Voters ousted outspoken Rep. Gus Savage from his congressional seat, nominating shooting victim Mel Reynolds in a Chicago Democratic district.

In the presidential competition, Clinton won hefty victories in partial returns from both Michigan and Illinois. Tsongas ran second in Illinois, slipped to third in Michigan behind former Gov. Brown of California.

Both losers offered Clinton their congratulations, a polite touch in an increasingly bitter campaign. Both had vowed in advance that no matter the result, they will continue their battles to overtake Clinton.

Brown had enraged Clinton by accusing him of funneling Arkansas state business to his wife's Little Rock law firm, and their angry dispute came up in post-primary interviews.

Clinton said in a CNN interview that he'd known Brown for years, since both were governors. "A lot of people thought he was a pain in the you-know-what," Clinton said. "But I always sort of liked him."

Brown said he wouldn't wait until the Democratic convention "to start raising hell. I'm going to start raising hell tomorrow morning."

At a Chicago victory rally, Clinton sounded an anti-Washington theme, telling supporters that the people who voted for him, voted for change. "They have voted to go beyond the politics of both parties in Washington," he said.

"Bush, Bush, Bush," is how Clinton deputy campaign manager George Stephanopoulos answered when asked about Clinton's focus in the coming primaries in Connecticut, Kansas, Wisconsin and New York.

Brown called Clinton's campaign a well-financed juggernaut.

Tsongas, in Hartford, Conn., for a head start on the campaign for next Tuesday's primary, said that if losing builds character, he has enough now and "we have to start winning for a change."

Brown told supporters in Madison, Wis., that he is determined to represent the unrepresented and "to work real change. However long it takes me, and that's

my commitment."

Bush's victories ran the president's primary streak to 16 and 0. A Buchanan aide said the challenger would announce on Wednesday that he is scaling back his daily campaign but intends to remain a candidate and will concentrate on the June 2 presidential primary in California.

Votes for undecided or for minor or dropout candidates accounted for the balance of the Among them was former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, getting 3 percent of the Republican vote in Michigan.

Bush said the outcome "pushed the delegate count to a level where my nomination is virtually assured," and added in

a written statement, "I will seek the support of everyone who believes that we can change America as we changed the world."

Bush was winning 142 delegates in the two states, Buchanan none.

That raised the Bush count to 711 of the 1,105 it will take to settle the Republican nomination.

Angela Buchanan said her brother's campaign would stop running negative television advertisements against Bush. And, while Buchanan intends to campaign through the California primary, there will be a "change in focus," she said.

Network-commissioned polls of voters in the two primary states showed Clinton running

strong among black voters in Illinois and blue collar workers in Michigan. Brown was said to have run slightly behind Clinton among union workers in Michigan, but well ahead of Tsongas.

NBC said exit polls showed about 30 percent of the voters in both states said they disapproved of Bush's performance in office. In earlier primaries, the Republican protest vote had been running at or above that percentage; this week it dwindled.

Illinois was awarding 164 Democratic nominating votes and Clinton led for 107, Tsongas 46 and Brown 11. In Michigan, 131 delegates were at stake and Clinton led for 71, Brown 37 and Tsongas 23.

PROOF: Not Promises

Karen Koontz
President/Manager

Hall Home Furnishings

"I recently experimented with the Ad Plus non-subscriber product at The Gazette. I was pleasantly surprised with the response. I will use Ad Plus again to supplement my Gazette circulation."

FACT:

Of those Linn County adults who have purchased \$250 or more worth of furniture or carpeting in the past 12 months, 83% read The Gazette last Sunday.*

*Source: 1991 Consumer Market Study, MOR



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